

INFORMATION LETTER

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

Not for
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For Members
Only

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July 18, 1953

House Passes Bill Granting FDA Factory Inspection

Factory inspection legislation, H. R. 5740, passed the House without amendment on July 14, following two days of debate that emphasized the careful limiting of the scope of factory inspection contained in the report of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, and urged by the National Canners Association in its testimony before the Committee. An analysis of the bill was published in the INFORMATION LETTER of July 11.

Chairman Charles A. Wolverton (N. J.) in opening the discussion of the provisions of the bill commended the Food and Drug Administration "for the fine service it has rendered to our people throughout its entire existence." He commented that "I would much rather hear them criticized for being too zealous than for being too lenient."

Representative August H. Andrensen (Minn.) earlier had inquired of Mr. Wolverton as to whether the bill "would authorize such an inspection

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House Holds Hearings on Pesticides, Food Standards

A subcommittee of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce held hearings, July 14 and July 15, on two bills to amend the Federal Food and Drug Act. On July 14 the subcommittee took testimony on H. R. 4277, a bill to provide a regulatory scheme for the issuance of pesticide tolerances and the following day the subcommittee heard witnesses endorse H. R. 5055, a bill to simplify the procedures under which food standards are promulgated or amended.

In connection with the pesticide bill, the Association submitted a letter requesting that the subcommittee's record of the hearing be held open until after the active canning season so as to give a special Association Committee adequate opportunity to study

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Restatement of N.C.A. Position on Current Robinson-Patman Issues

The Board of Directors of the National Canners Association at its meeting May 23, passed a resolution which stated in effect: "The members of this Association abhor both price conspiracies and monopoly in any form, and endorse all sound efforts to curb conspiracy and eradicate monopoly. By the same token, the Association believes that the public interest will be effectively served and a free economy fostered by dissipating the existing confusion and doubts concerning the legal propriety of individual pricing practices or the good faith meeting of competition by individual sellers."

This action was taken by the Board following a discussion of the various bills that have been introduced to amend the Robinson-Patman Act. Some members of the Board construed the resolution to mean that the Association should go on record in support of the Capehart Bill and oppose the Kefauver Bill. A motion was introduced to that effect. This motion, however, was later withdrawn when it became evident that the sense of the Board was not to take a position with respect to any of the specific bills before the Congress. The minutes of the Board meeting show clearly the consensus of Board opinion:

It was asked if such action involved a blanket endorsement of the pending bills, and the sponsor of the motion replied that was his understanding. The question was referred to Mr. Auster, however, and he outlined briefly the objectives of two of the bills and

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Renegotiation Act

The House Committee on Ways and Means on July 14 agreed to recommend an extension of the Renegotiation Act of 1951 for one year from December 31, 1953. The extension, contained in a bill (H. R. 6287) introduced by Chairman Reed, also would amend the present law in several minor respects.

Production and Acreage of Vegetables for Processing

The 1953 acreage of vegetables for commercial processing promises to be about the same as last year but 5 percent below average, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The total 1953 planted acreage of the processing crops, for which estimates are made as of July 1, is 1.79 million acres compared with 1.80 million acres for 1952 and 1.89 million acres, the 1942-51 average. These crops usually account for 95 percent of the total planted acreage of the 11 processing vegetables estimated by the Bureau.

Increases in planted acreage, compared with 1952, are reported for snap beans, green peas, green lima beans, beets, cabbage for kraut (contract acreage only), sweet corn and pimientos. The acreage of green lima beans for processing is the second largest of record. Winter and spring spinach, (see INFORMATION LETTER of June 13, page 211) cucumbers for pickles and tomatoes are the only crops for which planted acreage is smaller this year than last. The acreage of tomatoes is the smallest since 1933.

The first estimate of indicated 1953 production for snap beans is 11 percent more than last year and 15 percent above average. Prospects for green peas for canning and freezing declined slightly during the last half of June, although the July 1 indicated production is still 10 percent above both last year and average.

Production of peas, snap beans, tomatoes, beets, lima beans, cabbage and pimientos for processing as of July 1 are reported on pages 240-241.

N.C.A. Robinson-Patman Position

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mentioned that others were also pending on this subject. After some discussion by members of the Board, the motion was amended by eliminating support of any specific legislation by the Association, the understanding being that any bill responsive to the Association resolution would merit support when it came to hearing. The motion as amended was seconded and carried.

It is evident from this that the Board of Directors was willing to stand on the principle of the resolution but was unwilling at that time to go on record in support of any particular bills or to oppose any other proposed legislation in this field. Thus the statements that have been made to the effect that the N.C.A. is supporting the Capehart Bill and opposing the Kefauver Bill have no basis in fact but are merely an erroneous interpretation of the N.C.A. Board action.

It should be made clear that the policy of the N.C.A. is stated in principle by this resolution but it should also be made clear that N.C.A. policy with respect to legislation designed to carry out this principle will be determined when the Congress decides to hold hearings on bills to amend the Robinson-Patman Act.

Since the Administration has recognized the need for a careful study of the whole field of anti-trust legislation and since a special committee is being appointed by the Attorney General to make such a study, it would seem logical that Congress, faced with what is admittedly an extremely confused legal problem with respect to Robinson-Patman legislation, would want to have the benefit of this committee's study before considering any specific proposals at a hearing.

The N.C.A. believes that an independent study of this field of legislation is long overdue and that the results of such a study could very well result in a clearer statement of public policy than has heretofore been made by the Congress or any other government body, and that such a statement would contribute materially to a better understanding on the part of businessmen as to the government's objective in regulating pricing and other trade practices.

The above statement was read by Dr. H. L. Stier of the N.C.A. staff, at the meeting July 17 of the Northwest Canners Association at Walla Walla, Washington, one session of which was devoted to discussion of the Robinson-

Patman situation. Request had been made for a statement of the N.C.A. position and the above was prepared at Washington headquarters for Dr. Stier to read to the meeting.

FDA Factory Inspection

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of books and records and would be strictly confined to the facilities that are used and the products that are used in the manufacture of articles covered in the bill." The Committee Chairman replied, "It does not have that effect."

Congressman Carl Hinshaw (Calif.) also pointed out that "one of the things we attempted to do in this amendment and report was to make clear that they (the Food and Drug Administration) should not go to the extent they have in the past of examining all these things to which the gentleman from Minnesota referred. We have particularly placed the word 'reasonable' in the amendment in three different places to be sure that these inspections shall be entirely plausible."

Congressman John V. Beamer of Indiana who had actively participated in Committee consideration of the bill remarked in the course of the House debate that all the witnesses before the Committee representing the manufacture or distribution of foods, drugs, and cosmetics were hopeful that some provisions or limitations would be included in order to protect the manufacturer from certain practices of inspectors and other officials.

"It was for this reason," Mr. Beamer stated in part "that the word 'reasonable' was applied to time, manner, and limit of inspection. It also was for this reason that a copy of the inspector's report was to be left with the factory owner; that a copy of any analysis made of a product to be left with the manufacturer; and that the manufacturer be notified if any samples are taken in order that he could take a similar sample. It was for the above reason that these provisions were written into the bill.

Considerable emphasis in the hearings was placed on the committee report that accompanies H. R. 5740. It was felt that the Pure Food and Drug Administration, as an agency, should and could control their activities in such a manner that they could protect the public health without intimi-

dating or harassing the manufacturer. It also was urged, and I wish to emphasize this point, that the Pure Food and Drug inspectors are assistance agents and not police officers. In the case of offenders—and that group is very small, less than 1 percent of the total number—the inspectors should report offenses and the courts should try the cases and invoke penalties. With the other 99 $\frac{1}{2}$ percent, however, the food and drug inspectors should give every possible assistance in the form of advice or warning or suggestions instead of waiting for several months or watching for repeated trips to "get something" on the manufacturer.

Congressman J. Arthur Younger (Calif.) stated that the Committee "tried in every way possible to circumscribe the inspector. I would like to read from the committee report, which would indicate the intent of Congress:

"The requirement for the inspection 'within reasonable limits and in a reasonable manner' has been inserted in the bill for the purpose of confining the scope of inspection to 'factory, warehouse, establishment, or vehicle, and all pertinent equipment, finished and unfinished materials, containers, and labeling therein.'

"It was done for the purpose of confining the inspection. Now it is up to the Food and Drug to see to it that their inspectors are well trained and they do not go out on fishing expeditions into plants and factories, but that they perform an objective inspection and not go out on these punitive expeditions which we have heard so much about in our committee hearings.

"There is one other thing I would like to mention. A number of people have mentioned the files in the manufacturer's plant, his formulas, his personnel files and especially druggists' prescriptions. It is not the intent, and it certainly was not my intent that this law, as now passed, gives the inspector the right to inspect or require to be inspected formulas, personnel files, prescription files in drug stores and similar things of that nature. That is why the committee specifically inserted here 'confining the scope of inspection' so as to prevent in the future these obnoxious cases that were called to our attention in the committee hearings."

Chairman Wolverton prominently identified the National Canners Association among the food, drug, cosmetic, consumer, and union groups supporting factory inspection legislation.

CONGRESS

Customs Simplification

The House on July 13 passed and sent to the Senate H. R. 5877, the "Customs Simplification Act of 1953." The legislation is designed to simplify customs procedures governing imports and temporary entry of travelers.

Among the customs procedures amended by H. R. 5877 are those regulating drawback. The bill would extend from one year to three years the time in which imported duty-paid sugar or non-ferrous metals may be used in the manufacture of domestic articles, and would extend from three years to five years the period in which the completed article may be exported—if drawback is to be applied for.

PROCUREMENT

USDA Announces Purchases for School Lunch Program

The United States Department of Agriculture has issued announcements this week covering contemplated purchase programs for canned peas, canned green snap beans, canned sour cherries, and concentrated orange juice, for the school lunch program. Details of schedules and specifications for these purchases are given below:

Canned Peas

Canned green peas to be purchased are of the 1953 pack. Offers may now be submitted for the sale of this commodity packed in No. 10, No. 2, or No. 303 size cans. However, No. 10 size cans are preferred. Delivery is required during the period August 17, 1953 through September 21, 1953, as specified by USDA.

Canned Green Snap Beans

Canned green snap beans to be purchased are cut style round type of the 1953 pack. Offers may now be submitted for the sale of this commodity packed in No. 10, No. 2, or No. 303 cans. However, No. 10 size cans are preferred. Delivery is required during the period August 17, 1953 through September 21, 1953 as specified by USDA.

Canned Sour Cherries

Canned red sour pitted cherries to be purchased are of the 1953 pack. Offers may now be submitted for the sale of this commodity packed in No.

2 and No. 10 cans. Delivery is required during the period August 24 through September 26, 1953, as specified by USDA.

Send all offers to: Director, Fruit and Vegetable Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Concentrated Orange Juice

Canned concentrated orange juice (except that made from navel oranges) will be purchased for the national school lunch program it was announced July 13 by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Offers may now be submitted for the sale of this product packed in No. 3 cylinder cans. The announcement states that the concentrate shall be extracted from fresh oranges and processed after award of the contract. Delivery is required during the period August 17, 1953, through September 19, 1953, as specified by USDA.

PERSONNEL

Craven Joins Northwest Branch

Howard J. Craven joined the staff of the N.C.A. Northwest Branch in Seattle on July 1 as assistant chemist.

He was graduated from the University of Washington in 1949 with a B.S. in chemical engineering. Since graduation he has worked for the Fish and Wildlife Service in its technological laboratory at Ketchikan, Alaska, on problems relating to the sea food canning industry.

PUBLICITY

Seventeen Magazine

A number of canned foods have been featured in the monthly short food articles of clip-and-save recipes which have appeared in *Seventeen* magazine. The July issue carries another of the articles with a canned food as a feature.

"A Can of Tomato Aspic Makes . . ." says, "This tomato salad jells at room temperature. Slice and serve it as is . . . or melt and remold in other ways." Three recipes using canned tomato aspic are given.

Wisconsin Pea Canning

The size of the pea canning business in Wisconsin and the modern methods followed by the industry there are emphasized in an illustrated feature article, which appeared in the Sunday *Milwaukee Journal*, June 21. Six color photos are used to show vining, loading, filling, cooling, and can conveying operations. Picture captions bring out the fact that Wisconsin's canning industry is worth about \$75,000,000 a year to canners, of which nearly half is in peas, and that some 31,000 persons are employed in harvesting and processing operations there. Pictures used with the article were made at the Mammoth Spring Canning Co., Sussex, and the Oconomowoc Canning Co., Sun Prairie.

Pesticides, Standards Hearings

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the proposal. At the time the INFORMATION LETTER went to press, the subcommittee had not formally acted on the N.C.A. request.

Text of the Association's letter to Chairman Wolverton endorsing the bill to simplify the food standards procedure follows:

On May 7, 1953 Mr. Hale introduced H. R. 5055, a bill to simplify the procedures for the promulgation of mandatory food standards under Section 401 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. This bill was originally formulated by a subcommittee of the Committee on Food Standards of the New York State Bar Association, the personnel of which is virtually identical with that of the Committee on Food Standards of the Food and Drug Section of the American Bar Association.

This amendment is, so far as we know, wholly non-controversial and is highly desirable because it will facilitate the ready amendment of existing food standards in non-controversial respects without the formalities of a full hearing. On the other hand, the bill adequately protects everyone with respect to any controversial issue.

As you know, the bulk of mandatory standards already promulgated embrace canned foods. The canning industry is therefore vitally interested in this proposal to simplify and facilitate the amendment of these standards to accommodate any developments which constantly are occurring.

We earnestly hope that in view of the non-controversial character of the proposal, the Committee can act favorably upon it this session, to the end that it might be enacted by Congress.

STATISTICS

Peas for Processing

The prospective production of green peas for commercial processing declined during the last half of June, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The 474,450 tons indicated by July 1 conditions is 3 percent less than the 487,850 tons estimated as of June 15 this year, but is 10 percent more than both the 1952 crop and the 10-year average production.

The decline in prospects, compared with mid-June, was quite general in the North Central and Mountain states and in the Pacific Northwest.

(Editor's note—*Acreage of peas for canning only, as reported to the N.C.A. Division of Statistics by canners, was published in the July 3 issue of the INFORMATION LETTER on pages 229-230.*)

| State | 1952 | 1952 | 1953 | Per- |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---------|---------|--------|
| | Indi- | Re- | Indi- | cent |
| | cated | vised | cated | change |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| | (tons—shelled) | | | |
| | 1952 | | | |
| Maine..... | 5,470 | 4,050 | 6,840 | +69 |
| New York.... | 24,220 | 17,210 | 22,750 | +32 |
| Pennsylvania.... | 12,480 | 11,800 | 17,100 | +45 |
| Ohio..... | 2,000 | 1,910 | 1,700 | -11 |
| Indiana..... | 2,460 | 2,190 | 1,700 | -22 |
| Illinois..... | 28,000 | 25,110 | 26,550 | +6 |
| Michigan..... | 5,320 | 3,510 | 4,800 | +37 |
| Wisconsin.... | 147,400 | 125,240 | 117,450 | -6 |
| Minnesota.... | 52,720 | 47,710 | 52,700 | +10 |
| Iowa..... | 4,330 | 3,670 | 3,330 | -9 |
| Delaware.... | 3,120 | 3,020 | 4,230 | +40 |
| Maryland.... | 8,970 | 7,980 | 8,000 | ... |
| Virginia..... | 1,780 | 1,630 | 2,160 | +33 |
| Idaho..... | 10,350 | 11,750 | 12,000 | +2 |
| Colorado.... | 3,240 | 3,150 | 3,060 | -3 |
| Utah..... | 10,170 | 7,120 | 12,180 | +71 |
| Washington.... | 73,200 | 71,280 | 86,400 | +21 |
| Oregon..... | 52,680 | 59,220 | 70,120 | +18 |
| California.... | 15,910 | 14,640 | 12,590 | -16 |
| Other states ¹ | 8,700 | 7,980 | 8,760 | +10 |
| U. S. Total.... | 472,520 | 430,170 | 474,450 | +10 |

¹ Ark., Ga., Kans., Mo., Mont., Nebr., N. J., Okla., Tenn., Texas, W. Va., and Wyo.

Snap Beans for Processing

The 1953 production of snap beans for commercial processing promises to be larger than both last year and average, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The indicated production, based on July 1 conditions, is 267,450 tons, 11 percent more than the 239,930 tons harvested last year and 15 percent above the 1942-51 average production of 232,200 tons.

The indicated 1953 acreage for harvest is 125,570 acres, 9 percent more than the revised estimate of 115,420 acres for 1952 but 3 percent less than the 10-year average of 129,630.

Despite poor yield prospects in the Ozark area and in many of the southern states, the prospective yield per acre for the country as a whole is above both last year and average.

| State | 1952 | 1952 | 1953 | Per- |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| | Indi- | Re- | Indi- | cent |
| | cated | vised | cated | change |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| | (tons) | | | |
| Maine..... | 5,900 | 3,900 | 6,200 | +59 |
| New York.... | 59,400 | 51,300 | 53,100 | +4 |
| Pennsylvania.... | 8,400 | 9,000 | 10,400 | +15 |
| Michigan.... | 10,500 | 9,400 | 9,400 | ... |
| Wisconsin.... | 18,600 | 21,800 | 19,800 | -9 |
| Missouri.... | 200 | 100 | 100 | ... |
| Delaware.... | 4,300 | 3,200 | 4,500 | +41 |
| Maryland.... | 18,200 | 15,000 | 19,800 | +32 |
| Virginia..... | 3,800 | 4,500 | 6,600 | +47 |
| N. Carolina.... | 1,800 | 4,300 | 4,200 | -2 |
| S. Carolina.... | 900 | 500 | 400 | -20 |
| Georgia..... | 200 | 200 | 200 | ... |
| Florida..... | 11,200 | 12,330 | 15,750 | +28 |
| Tennessee.... | 11,900 | 5,900 | 8,100 | +37 |
| Mississippi.... | 1,400 | 900 | 1,000 | +11 |
| Arkansas.... | 3,700 | 3,200 | 2,600 | -19 |
| Louisiana.... | 400 | 500 | 1,400 | +180 |
| Oklahoma.... | 700 | 1,300 | 1,700 | +31 |
| Texas..... | 7,700 | 7,700 | 6,500 | -16 |
| Colorado.... | 3,500 | 5,000 | 4,900 | -2 |
| Utah..... | 2,200 | 2,400 | 2,200 | -8 |
| Washington.... | 10,000 | 8,400 | 8,000 | -5 |
| Oregon..... | 49,900 | 51,700 | 56,200 | +9 |
| California.... | 8,400 | 8,200 | 13,200 | +61 |
| Other states ¹ | 8,900 | 9,200 | 11,200 | +22 |
| U. S. Total.... | 252,100 | 239,930 | 267,450 | +11 |

¹ Ala., Idaho, Ill., Ind., Iowa, Ky., Miss., Mont., Nebr., N. J., N. M., Ohio, Vt., and Wyo.

for the 10 years, 1942-51, was 7 percent.

| State | 1952 | 1952 | 1953 | Per- |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| | Prelim- | Re- | Prelim- | cent |
| | inary | vised | inary | change |
| | (acres) | (acres) | (acres) | from |
| New York.... | 3,400 | 4,100 | 4,500 | +10 |
| Michigan.... | 800 | 700 | 850 | +21 |
| Wisconsin.... | 7,100 | 7,100 | 7,400 | +4 |
| Oregon.... | 1,200 | 1,000 | 1,100 | +10 |
| Other states ¹ | 2,740 | 2,870 | 3,000 | +8 |
| U. S. Total.... | 15,240 | 15,770 | 16,940 | +7.4 |

¹ Calif., Colo., Ill., Ind., La., Maine, Md., Minn., N. J., Ohio, Pa., Tenn., Texas, Utah, and Wash.

Tomatoes for Processing

The 1953 planted acreage of tomatoes for processing is the smallest since 1933, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The preliminary estimate of 309,350 acres for 1953 is 19 percent less than the 383,000 acres planted in 1952 and 37 percent below the 1942-51 average of 488,200 acres. Compared with last year, substantial reduction in acreage is reported for all of the more important producing states.

If abandonment of planted acreage in 1953 is equal to the 10-year average loss of 4 percent, the 1953 harvested acreage would be about 297,000 acres compared with a revised estimate of 377,200 acres for 1952.

| State | 1952 | 1952 | 1953 | Per- |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| | Prelim- | Re- | Prelim- | cent |
| | inary | vised | inary | change |
| | (acres) | (acres) | (acres) | from |
| New York.... | 19,000 | 20,000 | 17,600 | -12 |
| New Jersey.... | 36,000 | 34,000 | 28,000 | -18 |
| Pennsylvania.... | 25,500 | 26,500 | 23,500 | -11 |
| Ohio..... | 25,000 | 23,000 | 20,900 | -9 |
| Indiana.... | 60,500 | 49,000 | 36,800 | -25 |
| Illinois.... | 10,100 | 12,600 | 11,000 | -13 |
| Michigan.... | 9,800 | 8,500 | 7,600 | -11 |
| Wisconsin.... | 800 | 1,000 | 1,000 | ... |
| Iowa..... | 1,500 | 1,400 | 1,400 | ... |
| Missouri.... | 5,300 | 4,600 | 3,800 | -17 |
| Delaware.... | 3,900 | 6,100 | 4,300 | -30 |
| Maryland.... | 27,000 | 24,600 | 21,400 | -13 |
| Virginia.... | 14,900 | 16,000 | 14,400 | -10 |
| S. Carolina.... | 3,600 | 300 | 400 | +33 |
| Florida.... | 6,300 | 7,400 | 7,500 | -1 |
| Kentucky.... | 1,500 | 1,700 | 1,700 | ... |
| Tennessee.... | 2,500 | 2,200 | 1,600 | -17 |
| Arkansas.... | 10,200 | 5,100 | 4,600 | -10 |
| Oklahoma.... | 600 | 800 | 400 | -50 |
| Texas.... | 12,000 | 12,000 | 8,000 | -33 |
| Colorado.... | 3,100 | 2,800 | 3,000 | +7 |
| Utah..... | 6,700 | 7,300 | 7,700 | +5 |
| California.... | 112,000 | 112,900 | 80,000 | -29 |
| Other states ¹ | 3,000 | 3,000 | 2,750 | -8 |
| U. S. Total.... | 401,000 | 383,000 | 309,350 | -19.2 |

¹ Ala., Ariz., Conn., Ga., Idaho, Kans., La., Minn., Miss., Nebr., N. M., N. C., Ore., Wash., and W. Va.

Cabbage for Kraut

The 1953 planted acreage of cabbage under contract for sauerkraut is 10 percent more than last year and 20 percent above average, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The preliminary 1953 estimate is 11,620 acres compared with 10,610 acres in 1952 and a 1942-51 average of 9,680 acres. These estimates include acreage grown by packers on their own or leased land as well as acreage under contract with growers. The 1953 estimate is 2 percent more than was indicated by the intentions-to-plant report last April.

Last year the equivalent open-market acreage amounted to 7,280 acres or 41 percent of the total. For the 10 years, 1942-51, the average was 8,400 acres or 46 percent of the total.

| State | Contract ¹ | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------|-------------|
| | 1952 | 1952 | 1953 |
| | Total ² | Revised | Preliminary |
| New York | 7,500 | 2,300 | 2,600 |
| Ohio | 1,500 | 1,470 | 1,600 |
| Indiana | 1,100 | 900 | 1,100 |
| Illinois | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Michigan | 280 | 250 | 280 |
| Wisconsin | 4,500 | 3,200 | 3,600 |
| Minnesota | 100 | 70 | 70 |
| Colorado | 180 | 150 | 150 |
| Washington | 270 | 230 | 260 |
| Other states ³ | 2,360 | 2,040 | 1,990 |
| U. S. Total | 17,890 | 10,610 | 11,620 |

¹ Total acreage is the contract acreage (footnote 2) plus an equivalent acreage from which open-market purchases were made.

² Contract acreage includes acreage grown by packers on own or leased land as well as acreage grown under contract with growers.

³ Fla., Iowa, Md., Mo., N. J., N. C., Ore., Pa., Tenn., Texas, Utah, and Va.

Lima Beans for Processing

A near-record acreage of green lima beans for commercial processing is in prospect for 1953, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The preliminary estimate of planted acreage for canning and freezing is 113,100 acres, second only to the 1949 planted acreage. This estimate is 14 percent more than the 1952 planted acreage and 30 percent above the 1942-51 average plantings. It is practically the same as the acreage indicated by the intentions-to-plant reports last May. Increases over last year are reported for all important producing states except New York. These estimates relate to planted acreage. Last year 5 per-

cent of the planted acreage was abandoned. The 1942-51 average loss of planted acreage was 7 percent.

| State | 1952 Prelim- inary | 1952 Re- vised | 1953 Prelim- inary | Per- cent change from 1952 |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| | (acres) | (acres) | (acres) | |
| New York | 5,700 | 4,400 | 4,100 | -7 |
| Pennsylvania | 4,400 | 4,500 | 4,600 | +2 |
| Ohio | 450 | 500 | 800 | +60 |
| Michigan | 1,900 | 1,500 | 2,600 | +73 |
| Wisconsin | 8,400 | 7,300 | 9,000 | +23 |
| Delaware | 20,400 | 20,000 | 23,000 | +15 |
| Maryland | 3,400 | 3,600 | 3,800 | +6 |
| Virginia | 4,500 | 3,800 | 4,300 | +13 |
| Washington | 2,000 | 450 | 650 | +44 |
| California | 21,800 | 22,100 | 28,100 | +27 |
| Other states ¹ | 30,350 | 30,950 | 32,150 | +4 |
| U. S. Total | 103,300 | 99,100 | 113,100 | +14.1 |

¹ Ark., Colo., Idaho, Ill., Ind., Iowa, Kans., Minn., Mo., N. J., Okla., Tenn., and Utah.

Pimientos for Processing

Georgia processors have 25,500 acres of pimientos planted this year, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This figure includes 19,000 acres planted in Georgia and 6,500 acres planted in other

nearby states. In 1952 the comparable total for these operations was 18,500 acres while the 1942-51 average was 15,450 acres. Because of dry weather at planting time, not all of the acreage contracted this year was planted.

Livestock and Meat Situation

Cattle have moved to slaughter in record volume since February, and per capita consumption of beef this year may set an all-time record, according to a report by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on *The Livestock and Meat Situation*.

In each month beginning in February the number of cattle slaughtered under federal inspection has been a new high for the month. For January-June the average increase in cattle slaughter is 30 percent above 1952.

Per capita consumption of beef is forecast by BAE at 73 pounds, as compared with 61.3 pounds in 1952. Veal consumption also will be above last year's.

Supplies of pork are expected to remain small throughout this year, about 10 pounds less than the 71.6 pounds per person consumed in 1952.

Wholesale Distributor Stocks of Canned Foods

A summary showing wholesale distributor and cannery stocks of specified canned foods, compiled by the Bureau of the Census and combining cannery stock totals of the N.C.A. Division of Statistics, is shown below:

Wholesale Distributor and Cannery Stocks of Specified Canned Foods (Including Warehouses of Retail Multiunit Organizations)

| | July 1, 1952 | | | June 1, 1953 | | | Proportion of Distributor Stocks in No. 10s or larger |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--|
| | Distrib- utors | Cannery | Total Stocks (thousands of actual cases) | Distrib- utors | Cannery | Total Stocks | |
| Vegetables: | | | | | | | |
| Beans, green & wax | 3,588 | 2,453 | 6,041 | 2,132 | 714 | 2,846 | 23 16 |
| Corn | 4,485 | 923 | 5,408 | 4,669 | 5,888 | 10,557 | 5 9 |
| Peas | 5,796 | 4,740 | 10,536 | 3,943 | 3,420 | 7,363 | 11 11 |
| Tomatoes | 4,558 | 1,727 | 6,285 | 3,509 | 3,195 ¹ | 6,704 | 18 14 |
| Fruits: | | | | | | | |
| Apricots | 748 | 968 ^a | 1,446 | 627 | 777 | 1,404 | 37 19 |
| Fruit Cocktail ^b | 1,379 | 3,051 ^a | 4,430 | 1,183 | 1,579 | 2,762 | 12 11 |
| Peaches | 3,633 | 4,071 ^a | 7,704 | 2,929 | 3,424 | 6,353 | 18 11 |
| Pears | 1,047 | 2,047 ^a | 3,094 | 908 | 1,767 | 2,765 | 17 16 |
| Pineapple ^c | 2,749 | 3,979 ^a | 6,728 | 1,815 | 6,532 | 8,347 | 14 10 |
| Juices: | | | | | | | |
| Tomato ^d | 3,164 | 5,305 | 8,469 | 2,486 | 5,652 ^f | 8,138 | 6 2.6 |
| Grapefruit ^d | 1,538 | 3,068 | 4,606 | 957 | 3,600 | 4,557 | 3 1 |
| Orange ^d | 1,697 | 4,348 | 6,045 | 1,399 | 4,591 | 5,990 | 2 0.9 |
| Citrus Blend ^d | 670 | 1,760 | 2,430 | 566 | 1,367 | 1,933 | 3 0.5 |
| Pineapple ^d | 1,336 | 2,030 ^a | 3,266 | 1,152 | 3,313 | 4,465 | 3 1 |

^a June 1 stocks, not available for July 1. ^b Includes fruit for salad and mixed fruits (except citrus). ^c Cannery stocks include Hawaii and the Philippines. ^d Cannery stocks include Florida only. ^e Includes vegetable juice combinations containing at least 70 percent tomato juice. ^f Excluding California.

SOURCE: Distributors' stocks, Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce, Cannery stocks, National Cannery Association, Pineapple Growers Association of Hawaii and Florida Cannery Assn.

Annual Fruit and Vegetable Pack Bulletins Mailed

The N.C.A.'s annual *Canned Food Pack Statistics: Part I—Vegetables and Part II—Fruits* have been mailed to the industry.

The bulletins are a compilation of 1952 packs of major vegetables and fruits, giving the industry's total production of each commodity by can size and principal states where packed, with comparisons with previous years. The information is compiled from data furnished by individual canners, members and non-members.

The publications provide a historical reference work for the industry and, in addition, are used as a source of information by allied industries and government departments.

Additional copies may be obtained upon request to the N.C.A. Division of Statistics.

FARM POLICY

Improving Farm Programs

The Secretary of Agriculture has received a progress report from the National Agricultural Advisory Committee following its meeting in Washington July 6-8 to discuss agricultural price support and other possible farm legislation.

Attention of the Committee was focused on improvements that might be made in the program after the expiration of the present legislation for the support of 1954 crops of the basic commodities.

Among the main ideas considered were present high-level price supports, the flexible price supports of the Agricultural Acts of 1948 and 1949, and two-price plans for major export crops.

In its progress report, the Committee recommended that further study be undertaken to determine the effects of specific programs and proposals. The Committee will reconvene in early September and, according to USDA, it is expected that it will make specific recommendations to the Secretary before the end of the year.

Meanwhile, Secretary Benson emphasized that other studies are going forward in addition to those receiving the consideration of his Committee. The major farm organizations are

carrying on a "grass roots" discussion which is expected to result in recommendations to the Secretary. The House Committee on Agriculture is planning to hold hearings in the farming districts during the summer, according to USDA.

The National Agricultural Advisory Committee is the 14-man group appointed by the President.

In a recent address, the president of the Commodity Credit Corporation, John H. Davis, outlined three choices in the solution of the farm problem:

"First, we can enlarge the farm programs we now have. This actually means more government ownership of commodities in storage, more deficits to be made up by appropriations, and less free markets. Secondly, we can shift the responsibility for adequate farm markets to the producer and the industry handling farm products. Or, lastly, we can steer a middle course with less government but with more private enterprise than at present.

"... Choice number two is the hardest choice to make since it involves building adequate markets through private enterprise. This is a big order when viewed from the standpoint of the size and scope of the farm problem that confronts us. It will require a higher level of statesmanship and team work between agricultural producers and the processing and distributive industries than we have ever had. And, of course, all of this must be voluntary if it is to be free enterprise.

"... The third alternative—that of some reliance on government and more on private enterprise—is a middle course between the other two choices. It seems to me that this is the most promising choice, at least for the years immediately ahead.

This is true even if full reliance on private enterprise were our ultimate goal, because we move from where we are today to where we want to go. And in doing so, it is essential, both in the national interest as well as that of the farmer, that the agricultural producer be given reasonable price stability.

"In building the desired programs, we need to tackle the job commodity by commodity and work out the necessary solutions in keeping with the requirements and circumstances that exist in each case. . . ."

STANDARDS

USDA Extends Time on Tomato Sauce Standards

The time for submitting views and comments on proposed standards for grades of tomato sauce has been extended to December 31, 1953, according to an announcement on July 13 by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The proposed standards were announced by USDA on May 26, 1953 and published in the *Federal Register* of May 29. The proposed grades are designated as U. S. Grade A or U. S. Fancy, and U. S. Grade C or U. S. Standard. When quality falls below U. S. Grade C or U. S. Standard, the product would be classified as substandard. Quality of the product would be determined on the basis of scores for color, consistency, absence of defects, finish and flavor.

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